

Serial No. ⁰⁸/773,677

invention tested lower than at least an order of magnitude than that reported by Pichat in U.S. Patent No. 5,177,305. In fact, many of the elements tested were below detectable limits.

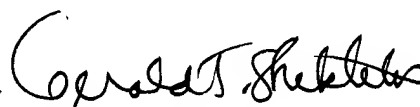
Applicant notes that the results set forth in Dr. Rehmat's declaration are in agreement with the results in tables 9 and 10 of the application.

The other primary references cited by the Examiner did not claim any leaching properties for their products.

With the above amendment to the claims restricting the claims to a product which has a certain leachant level, which leachant level is substantially less than that taught by the prior art, it is believed that a patentable invention is made out. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By 

Gerald T. Shekleton
Registration No. 27,466

Date: June 26, 1998

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza
n Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3913
Telephone: 312/655-1500